

CHAPTER 3

URBANIZATION

3.1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter focuses on urbanization which is a serious process whereby the church should seriously be aware of and engage herself vigorously in urban mission. Firstly, the researcher pays attention to urban growth and also discusses its causes. The causes of urban growth vary from one to the other. The reality concerning urban growth is that the more rapid urban growth occurs, the more the problems in urban areas increases as well. The researcher ends the chapter by highlighting the problems that are encountered in urban areas due to urban growth, for example, prostitution, urban poverty, street people, crime, HIV/AIDS, etc.

3.2 URBAN GROWTH

One of the salient features of our times is the rapid growth of cities in all six continents. “Developing countries are facing an urbanization explosion which has yet not been experienced” (Crowther 1991:24). This rapid urban growth was confirmed by Monsma (1989:108) who says: “The cities are growing rapidly and will continue to grow for the foreseeable future”. Linthicum added to the idea of Monsma when he says that “cities all over the world are facing an unprecedented growth explosion. Sometime close to the turn of the century there will be more people living in cities than will be living in towns or villages, on farms, in tribes, or in any other human habitation” (Linthicum 1991a:17). This implies that the world is becoming more and more urban (Conn 1987:15). Donald A. McGavran also indicated that “the importance of cities for church



growth increases when we see that larger proportions of the earth's population are living in them. The rush to the cities is on, and within the next few decades perhaps three-fourths of the human race will be born, live, and die in urban rather than rural areas" (McGavran 1970:314). Aylward Shorter for example indicated that:

Every day over 500 people are added to the population of Nairobi City, the capital of Kenya in East Africa, and most of these are new arrivals from the rural areas. This statistic is an indication of the scale and rapidity of urban growth in Africa today. Africa is the one continent undergoing the most rapid urbanization. By the end of the first quarter of the next century more than half of Africa's population will be town dwelling. During the next thirty or so years we shall continue to witness the extraordinary sight of Africa's town populations doubling and redoubling in each decade, and the townships multiplying in almost every part of the continent (Shorter 1991:1).

As was the case in many countries during the past century, urbanization arrived in South Africa with full force. The percentage of people living in urban areas in South Africa rose from 25% in 1921, to a full 50% in 1980. An interesting feature of urbanization in the country is the degree to which the different population groups have made a home for themselves in the cities. Whereas the Asian and White sections of the population may already be said to have reached an urbanization ceiling of 91% and 89% respectively in 1980, only 37% of the Black population was at that stage urbanized. The Coloured population occupied an intermediate position, with 78% urbanized in 1980. Already, more than a decade ago, more than half the total population of South Africa (53%) were confirmed city dwellers (Meiring 1994:589-590).

According to *Statistics South Africa (2006:8)*, in figure 3.1 below the provincial estimates show that Kwazulu-Natal has the largest share of the population, followed by Gauteng and Eastern Cape in 2006. Ten percent of the population lives in the Western Cape. The Northern Cape has the smallest population. Free State has the second smallest share of the South African population, with about 6% of the total population residing in this province.

Figure 3.1: Percentage distribution of the projected provincial share of the total population, 2001–2006 (taken from *Statistics South Africa, 2007:7*)

Province	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2006 (New boundaries)
Eastern Cape	15,5	15,4	15,2	15,1	15,0	14,9	14,6
Free State	6,5	6,4	6,4	6,3	6,3	6,2	6,2
Gauteng	18,5	18,7	18,9	19,0	19,2	19,4	20,1
Kwazulu-Natal	20,7	20,7	20,7	20,6	20,6	20,5	20,9
Limpopo	12,3	12,2	12,1	12,1	12,0	12,0	11,3
Mpumalanga	6,9	6,9	6,9	6,9	6,9	6,9	7,4
Northern Cape	1,9	1,9	1,9	1,9	1,9	1,9	2,3
North West	8,2	8,2	8,2	8,2	8,2	8,1	7,1
Western Cape	9,4	9,5	9,7	9,8	9,9	10,0	10,0
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

In South Africa the metropolitan cities are growing tremendously. In fig 3.2 below which shows the population growth rate of some of the South African metropolitan cities, it is clearly indicated that Durban in 1990 had 3, 1%; in 1995 it was 3, 7%; in 2000 it was 4, 4% and in 2005 it was 4, 9%. In Cape Town it was 2, 5% in 1990; 2, 9% in 1995; 3, 3% in 2000 and 4, 9% in 2005. In Port Elizabeth it was 0, 98% in 1990; 1, 2% in 1995; 1, 4% in 2000 and 1, 6% in 2005. In Bloemfontein it was 0, 6% in 1990; 0, 6% in 1995; 0, 79% in 2000 and in 2005 the percentage was lower than the percentage of 2000, it was

0, 9%. In Pietermaritzburg it was 0, 49% in 1990; 0, 56% in 1995; 0, 65% in 2000 and 0, 74% in 2005. In East London it was 0, 45% in 1990; 0, 53% in 1995; 0, 62% in 2000 and 0, 70% in 2005. From all the above mentioned metropolitan cities, it is quite clear that the population is increasing every year, except in Bloemfontein where there was a rate decreased in 2005 instead of increasing.

Fig 3.2: Urbanization in metropolitan cities in South Africa (Horn and Booyesen 1992:140) (Numbers in millions).

URBANIZATION IN SOUTH AFRICAN METROPOLITAN AREAS: 1990 – 2005				
Metropole	1990	1995	2000	2005
PWV	8,7	10,4	12,3	13,9
Durban	3,1	3,7	4,4	4,9
Cape Town	2,5	2,9	3,3	3,6
Port Elizabeth	0,98	1,2	1,4	1,6
Bloemfontein	0,6	0,69	0,79	0,9
Pietermaritzburg	0,49	0,56	0,65	0,74
OFS Goldfields	0,47	0,56	0,66	0,75
East London	0,45	0,53	0,62	0,70
Total Metropolitan Areas	17,4	20,5	24,1	27,1
Total Population	37,5	42,3	47,6	53,3

Here the researcher will give a short overview of some of the South African metropolitan cities that are tremendously growing, where he will indicate some of the most important things that make these cities to be well-known, and as a result, draw or pull different people from all over the world. This will help the churches that will think of planting



churches in these metropolitan cities to have knowledge about these cities. The six cities are Bloemfontein, Kimberley, Cape Town, East London, Port Elizabeth, and Durban.

BLOEMFONTEIN

(FREE STATE PROVINCE)

She is the capital city of the Free State Province. The Free State Province has a population of 2 958 800. According to Johnstone et al (2001:576), Bloemfontein has a population of 325,000. The principal languages of this province are: Sesotho 64, 4%; Afrikaans 11, 9% and IsiXhosa 9, 1%. She falls under Mangaung local municipality (Graffney 2007/08:512). She has a well-established institutional, educational and administrative infrastructure, and houses the Supreme Court of Appeal. She is referred to as the "City of Roses", is home to some of the province's many tertiary educational institutions, including the University of Free State and the Central University of Technology (Burger 2006/07:15). There is a continuous influx of unskilled people into Bloemfontein from rural areas. The unemployment rate is 40% (Graffney 2007/08:512).

KIMBERLEY

(NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE)

She is the capital city of the Northern Cape Province. The province has a population of 1 094 500. The principal languages of this province are: Afrikaans (68, 0 %) and Setswana (20, 8%). Other spoken languages are isiXhosa and English (Burger 2006/07:14). The Northern Cape is rich in minerals. Kimberley falls under Sol Plaatje Municipality. She has a rich and colorful history. She is famous for her diamonds which were discovered in 1870 in the walls of a farmhouse and on adjacent farmland. The

discovery of diamonds sparked a diamond rush that saw tens of thousands of diggers from all over the world rush to the area to stake their claims on Colesburg Kopje (Graffney 2007/08: 873). The country's chief diamond pipes are found in the Kimberley district. In 1888, the diamond industry was formally established with the creation of De Beers Consolidated Mines. Alluvial diamonds are also extended from the beaches and the sea between Alexander Bay and Port Nolloth (Burger 2006/07:15)

CAPE TOWN

(WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE)

She is the capital city of the Western Cape Province. The province has a population of 4 745 500. According to Johnstone et al (2001:576), Cape Town has a population of 2,6 million. The principal languages of this province are: Afrikaans (55, 3 %), IsiXhosa (23, 7%) and English (19, 3%) (Burger 2006/07:08). Cape Town falls under City of Cape Town Municipality. She is the "Mother City" of South Africa. She remains the economic hub of the Western Cape Province encompassing industrial areas such as Epping, Montagu Gardens, Parow and Retreat. Along the west coast, the Saldanha Steel Project has led to increased economic activity. The majority of the country's petroleum companies and the largest segment of the printing and publishing industries are located in Cape Town. Visitors to the Western Cape can disembark at Cape Town International Airport, George Airport or all the parts of Cape Town, Mossel Bay or Saldanha (Burger 2006/07:8). The surrounding towns are growing towards Cape Town (Graffney 2007/08:987). The city's unique environmental areas, including her beaches, the Cape Town Peninsula National Park and Roben Island (a World Heritage site) are important visitor attractions that generate economic activity and promote job creation (Graffney 2007/08:988).



EAST LONDON

(EASTERN CAPE PROVINCE)

The population of the province is 6 894 300. The principal languages of Eastern Cape are isiXhosa 83, 4 %; Afrikaans 9, 3% and English 3, 6%. Africans, Coloureds, Indians, Asians and Whites are also sited at this province (Graffney 2007/08:395). East London falls under Buffalo City Municipality. The sectors within East London with the highest growth potential are manufacturing, trade and accommodations, transport and communication and financial and business services (Graffney 2007/08:396). The metropolitan economics of Port Elizabeth and East London are based primary on manufacturing. The province is the hub of South Africa's automotive industry. Several of the world's biggest motor manufactures, such as Volkswagen, Ford (Samcor), General Motors (Delta) and DaimlerChrysler, have plants in the Eastern Cape (Burger 2006/07:10).

PORT ELIZABETH

(EASTERN CAPE PROVINCE)

The population and languages of the Eastern Cape Province are those indicated above (see East London). According to Johnstone et al (2001:576), Port Elizabeth has a population of 1,2 million. She falls under Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality. In 1993 Port Elizabeth became the first city in South Africa with a fully democratic, non-racial city council (Graffney 2007/08:452). She is the largest city in the metro, and the fifth largest in South Africa. She has a well developed infrastructure: Public transport is adequate and it is possible to move around by city bus shuttle, taxi or on foot. The city is an important centre for the automobile industry and is a major transport hub. Her well-equipped modern airport and harbour link Southern Africa with other national and



international destinations (Graffney 2007/08:452). The graceful curve of Algoa Bay provides an ideal setting for the port of Port Elizabeth. East London offers equally favorable harbor facilities. The province is serviced by three airports situated in Port Elizabeth, East London and Mthatha (Burger 2006/07:10).

DURBAN

(KWAZULU NATAL PROVINCE)

Kwazulu Natal Province has more than 9,9 million people (9 924 000). According to Johnstone et al (2001:576), Durban has a population of 2,8 million. The principal languages are: isiZulu 80, 9%; English 13, 6%; and Afrikaans 1, 5%. The remnants of British colonialism, together with Zulu, Indians, and Afrikaans traditions make for an interesting cultural mix in the province (Burger 2006/07:13). Durban falls under Ethekewini Municipality. She is one of the fastest-growing urban areas in the world. Her port is the 10-largest in the world (Burger 2006/07:12). Visitors to Kwazulu-Natal can either disembark at Durban International Airport, which handles more than 2,5 million passengers a year, or at Durban harbor. Alternatively, they can use of the extensive national road network (Burger 2006/07:12). She is South Africa's major port city and the second largest industrial hub after Gauteng. She is the major entry and exit port for both imports and exports, with access to important trading areas to the East, and proximity to the Gauteng mineral-industrial complex (Graffney 2007/08:623). According to E. Luther Copeland, because the world's society is rapidly becoming urbanized, it means that people have on their hands an urban world (Copeland 1979:60). What does this rapid urban growth mean for Christian missions? This question is a fundamental question which should be clearly understood and answered. There are many authors who have noticed the importance of rapid urban growth for Christian missions. In order

to answer the above question, the researcher pays attention to different authors' perspectives concerning what the rapid urban growth means for Christian missions:

➤ According to Maluga (1999:172), the South African cities are places where God is actively at work changing lives. This is happening through urban churches that have embraced God's call to the city. The more people move into South African cities, the potential for Kingdom impact grows greater and greater.

➤ Roger S. Greenway is of the opinion that when Christians encounter the rapidity of urban growth, it clearly means that "the harvest field is larger than ever before. More people need to be reached with the Gospel. More workers need to respond to the Lord's call, prepare themselves, and begin gathering the harvest (Greenway 1999:3-4). Dietrich Bonhoeffer is of the opinion that Jesus in Matthew 9:35-38 is portrayed as the Lord who reached out to the multitudes. His divine pity went out to that erring flock, the thousands who surged around Him. From a human point of view everything looked hopeless, but Jesus saw things with different eyes. Instead seeing the people maltreated, wretched and poor, He saw the ripe harvest field of God. "The harvest is great". It is ripe enough to be gathered, the wretched folk to be fetched home to the Kingdom of God. Jesus beholds the promise of God descending on the multitudes where the scribes and zealots saw only a field trampled down, burnt and ravaged. Jesus saw the field waving with corn and ripe for the Kingdom of God. The harvest was great, but only Jesus saw it (Bonhoeffer 2001:144).

➤ Aylward Shorter on the other hand says, "It is quite clear that urbanization is the most important social reality in Africa today, and that Christian evangelization must take full account of it" (Shorter 1991:1) and he further indicated that "Urbanization must be taken seriously by the church and given a priority that is absolute. Personnel have to

be deployed in the towns and urban church structures created, if the Gospel is to continue to make an impact in Africa” (Shorter 1991:1-2).

➤ Greenway and Monsma indicated that the urbanization of Christian missions is an urgent and serious need. Cities determine the destiny of nations, and their influence on the everyday affairs of individuals is incalculable. As cities grow in number, size, and influence, it is incumbent on those responsible for world evangelization, which includes the tasks of teaching, planning, and recruitment of missionaries, to focus on these cities (1999:xi).

➤ According to Donald A. McGavran, the Church faces huge city populations continually growing. Her task is to disciple, baptize, and teach these urban multitudes. It was urban multitudes that the Lord would have gathered as a hen gathers her brood under her wings; and His church, indwelt by Him, longs to do the same (1970:316).

It is incumbent upon Christians today to recognize and enthusiastically enter into the challenge of the new, emerging world. God is calling the church into the city. The world is becoming an urban world – and this is an inevitable and irreversible trend. Only Jesus’ return or humanity’s destruction of itself in a mushroom cloud will prevent the urbanization of the world. But people are not only faced with the mind boggling growth of the world’s existing cities – even the most rural and isolated areas of the world will be exposed to urbanization (Linthicum 1991d:19).

3.3 CAUSES OF URBAN GROWTH

Everything that happens within the planet has a cause. The question is “what is behind the mushrooming of the cities since 1940s?” According to Grigg (1992:29), “the growth

of cities is made up of both migration (called explosion growth) and natural increase within cities (sometimes called implosion growth)". The researcher's *first* focus is on migration and its causes are also illustrated; *secondly*, natural birth is illustrated; thirdly, immigration and its causes are treated; and *lastly*, problems in South African cities are also illustrated.

3.3.1 Migration

The migration of more than a billion people to the cities world wide in the last two decades is the largest population movement in history (Greenway 1999:113). An analysis of the internal migration streams revealed that Gauteng, Western Cape and Kwazulu-Natal experience positive net migration. There seems to be a high migration movement from Limpopo and the North West provinces into Gauteng. The provinces with the highest outflow of people were Eastern Cape and Limpopo (*Statistics South Africa* 2006:5).

According to Verster (2000:20), migration is a very important aspect of urbanization in Africa and other Third World countries. Migration usually occurs initially in response to events over which those affected have little control. Some of those events are: natural, economic, social and political. Every movement in life has a cause. People are migrating everyday from rural areas to urban areas because of push-pull factors. This was confirmed by Aylward Shorter who says, "Causes of migration are described as push and pull factors" (1991:29). Here the researcher will elucidate on what those push and pull factors are, and this will be done by focusing on the way different authors illustrate or view these factors.

3.3.1.1 Push factors

Aylward Shorter (1991:17) states that “the push factor in the thinly populated regions is the lack of prospects caused by deficiencies of one kind or another”. In supplementing the definition of push factors given by Aylward Shorter, the researcher defines push factors as the centrifugal forces that push (dispel) people from rural areas and as a result cause people to see urban areas as the better place to stay than rural areas. This definition was confirmed by Verster (2000:23) who says that “push factors are very important and often lead to situations in which life in the rural situation becomes unacceptable”. There are many push factors that one can spell out, but some of them are as follows:

3.3.1.1.1 Rural population growth

The worldwide increase in population is an underlying cause of migration to the cities. People today generally live longer, infant mortality has decreased, and medicines keep people alive who, years ago, would have died. The need for more jobs comes with the increase in population. This forces millions to leave their traditional rural homes and move to cities in search of employment (Greenway 1999:116). According to Viv Grigg, the increased birthrate in rural areas is one of the major causes of migration (1992:31).

3.3.1.1.2 Rural disasters

According to Aghamkar (1994:147), disasters such as famine, flooding, and community unrest force people to migrate to urban areas. In many countries the primary flow is internal, from rural areas to cities. In those cases farmers have been pushed off their land through drought or competition with large agribusinesses. They may have tried to

work as labourers on one of the large holdings for a while, but that work is usually seasonal and doesn't pay enough to hold them over through the workless periods. Many may leave the wives and children behind to seek work in the city with the hope of returning, but more often than not, if the family reunites it will be in the city (Conn & Ortiz 2001:318; cf Grigg 1992:31).

3.3.1.1.3 Escalating unemployment

Escalating unemployment in rural areas due to changes in the traditional caste system and government policies related to land, labor, and minimum wages also push rural people to the city (Aghamkar 1994:147-148) to look for employment in urban areas (Shorter 1991:17). According to J. Andrew Kirk, the lack of access to sufficient land of employment to sustain life drives people to the cities (Kirk 1999:99). Rural poverty, because of unemployment in rural areas is one of the major causes of migration (Johnstones 2001:579).

3.3.1.1.4 Rural overcrowding

Aylward Shorter (1991:16) indicated that one of the factors that push the migrant away from the village is rural overcrowding. Monsma (1979:12) is of the opinion that people are pushed off the farm by overcrowding, mechanization, or lack of opportunity. Most of the families in South African rural areas are extended families. In this type of families, for example, one family is composed of a man, his father and mother, his brothers and sisters, his wife, his sons and daughters, his daughters in law, his grand children etc.

3.3.1.1.5 People need freedom

For many young men and women, the desire for freedom from social constraints in close-knit rural communities is the primary motive for migration. Furthermore, people hope to enjoy political freedom in the cities (Verster 2000:38).

3.3.1.1.6 People need permanence and security

Viv Grigg (1992:30) indicated that throughout the centuries, men and women have needed permanence, security, community and achievement. The city, good in her reflections of the creativity, and creation of order; and evil in her infiltration, and arrogant rejection of God, has always been the mecca for such aspirations.

3.3.1.1.7 Other push factors

According to Viv Grigg (1992:31), the other push factors behind migration are poor health care, limited land, feudal relationships, multinational ownership, destruction of forests, typhoon, war, etc. These are also the most important factors that have more power of pushing people to urban areas.

3.3.1.2 Pull factors

In defining pull factors, the researcher defines these factors as the centripetal forces that pull (attract) people from rural areas and as a result see urban areas as the better place to stay than rural areas. According to Shorter (1991:17), the pull factors are usually stronger than the push factors. Some of the pull factors that one can spell out are as follows:

3.3.1.2.1 Economic reasons

Economic problems in certain areas lead to situations in which people are forced to leave those areas and go to the cities to start anew (Verster 2000:2). According to Aghamkar (1994:147), people primarily migrate to the cities for economic reasons – to earn a living. There are jobs in the city and the salaries they offer are generally better than the income one could receive in rural areas either by farming or by working for others (Hanna and Hanna 1971:39-41). City dwellers earn more money and buy more things (McGavran 1982:315). The town offers better prospects, more opportunities for improving the family income (Shorter 1991:17). According to Professor Piet Meiring, economic realities caused first the Whites and the Asians, and eventually the Coloureds and the Blacks to turn their faces to Cape Town and Durban, to Port Elizabeth and Bloemfontein, but especially to the vast urban sprawl of the so-called “PWV complex” (The Pretoria – Witwatersrand – Vereeniging Complex, with Johannesburg at the epicenter of the urban explosion) (1994:589).

3.3.1.2.2 Industrialization

Industrialization is considered a “pull” factor that attracts thousands of people to the city. Among all other factors which bring people from rural areas to the cities, however, industrialization is probably the most important. At least it is the most crucial reason for the growth of urban population in the Two-Thirds World. Some developing countries like Korea have used the term industrialization in parallel with urbanization (Greenway and Monsma 1989:xiii). The Hannas say, “Although many towns were founded in Africa and elsewhere before the local introduction of industry, sustained and rapid urban growth is usually linked with industrialization, including mining (1971:16-17). Mining is a

specialized form of industry which has also encouraged urbanization. For example, Johannesburg is associated with gold and diamond mines. Cities offer numerous options for employment, primarily in industry. Many educated and skilled people tend to move to the city. This is a major reason why people move to the city, where some kind of employment is normally available (Aghamkar 1994:147).

3.3.1.2.3 Better education

People hope that if they move to the cities they will get better education (Verster 2000:37). The availability for better educational facilities, the allure of the mass media, and increasing freedom attract thousands to the city (Aghamkar 1994:147-148). Cities offer educational opportunities that are not available in small towns and villages (Greenway 1999:116). Most schools of higher education are in cities, which offer libraries, part-time work for students, and easy access from the surrounding area (Monsma 1989:109).

Rural schools often prepare people not for rural lives, but for the modernizing influence of the city (Grigg 1992:30). In many cases, children are sent to school in town by rural parents, because it is believed – probably rightly – that urban educational standards are higher and job prospects are better at the town school (Shorter 1991:17). For example, the universities, technikons, technicals, colleges, in Gauteng, Bloemfontein, Cape Town, Durban, Cape Town, etc are occupied by students who mostly come from different rural areas. It is quite clear that those institutions in urban areas offer the best degrees, diplomas, or certificates that prepare those students for professions.

3.3.1.2.4 Better health care

Cities offer hospitals and health centers for people with special medical needs (Greenway 1999:116). While some medical care may be available in rural areas, more - specialized care, especially surgical procedures, can be obtained only in large-city hospitals (Monsma 1989:109). Most of the patients who suffer from chronic and dangerous diseases in rural hospitals are transferred to city hospitals because “medical services are more readily at hand” (McGavran 1982:315). Every city has special hospitals, surgeries, etc. To quote one example: the researcher visited a hospital in Pretoria on the 22nd of November 2005. The Louis Pasteur Private hospital is situated in the heart of Pretoria’s CBD, on the corner of Prinsloo and Schoeman Streets. What he discovered is that: the hospital caters for all of the city’s medical and surgical needs, it is also home to patients from as far as Mpumalanga, North West, Limpopo and the whole of Gauteng-and from beyond the borders of South Africa, namely, Uganda, Mozambique, Ethiopia, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Malawi and Swaziland. This hospital offers a comprehensive field of medical services, ranging from minor one-day dental procedures to highly specialize cardio-thoracic and neurosurgery. Other disciplines include general surgery, internal medicine, gynecology, ear, nose and throat surgery, cardiology, nephrology, rheumatology, plastic and reconstructive surgery and maxillofacial surgery, orthopedics, pediatrics, urology, psychology, psychiatry, audiology, physiotherapy and occupational therapy is also offered.

3.3.1.2.5 Cities are centers of service and dominance

According to Monsma (1989:108-110), cities are centers of service and dominance. This implies that cities arise and grow because they serve the towns, villages, and farms that surrounded them. As the city grows larger, she tends to serve and influence

her hinterland in at least eight major areas i.e. government, education, health care, information, entertainment, trade, industry and warfare. The Hannas (1971:42-44) are of the opinion that the urbanite enjoys many amenities that his rural relatives don't have, such as running water, electricity, speedy public transportation, cinemas, bars, sporting events, and television. Urbanites also appreciate the freedom that city life involves when compared with life in their tribal areas. This is an attractive factor which lures people from rural areas to cities. In other words, people flock to cities simply for better living conditions. Greenway (1999:113) is of the opinion that cities are the recognized centers of political power, economic activity, communication, science research, academic instruction, and moral and religious influence. Whatever happens in cities affects entire nations. The world goes in the direction that cities go.

3.3.1.2.6 Other pull factors

Young people, especially, are attracted to the cities for excitement, entertainment, and new opportunities. They often come to cities dreaming of riches and a better life, only to have their dreams destroyed by the hard realities of urban life (Greenway 1999:116).

3.3.2 Natural birth

Natural growth rate and an increasing life expectancy remain important, even expanding factors. In the earlier post independence period of Africa, rural – urban migration was the largest reason for the expansion of large cities (Conn & Oritz 2001:211). Greenway is of the opinion that “Biological growth, which is the number of births over deaths, adds greatly to this urban growth pattern (1999:113). The researcher does agree 100% with Greenway's opinion, for example, the birth rate in urban areas is growing tremendously because of the following reasons:

The first reason is that those young men and young women who migrated to urban areas for different reasons settled in the urban area. And as a result they gave birth to children. Because the urban areas become their permanent place, their children belong to the urban areas. Even when their children have to start school, they start school in the place where their parents are staying.

The second reason is that the immigrants who moved from their country of birth and come to stay permanently in South Africa, when they give birth they stay with their children here in South Africa. And by so doing, the birth rate increases tremendously.

The third reason is that there is a great competition between the teenagers to become pregnant because each one of them wants to prove whether she can give birth or not. The other motivating factor is the child grants which the government is offering to those who have children. According to a Phalaphala FM news cast a school which is under Gauteng Province recently broke a record by accommodating 71% of teenage pregnancies in 2006. This is a cause for great concern, is the rise of teenage pregnancy.

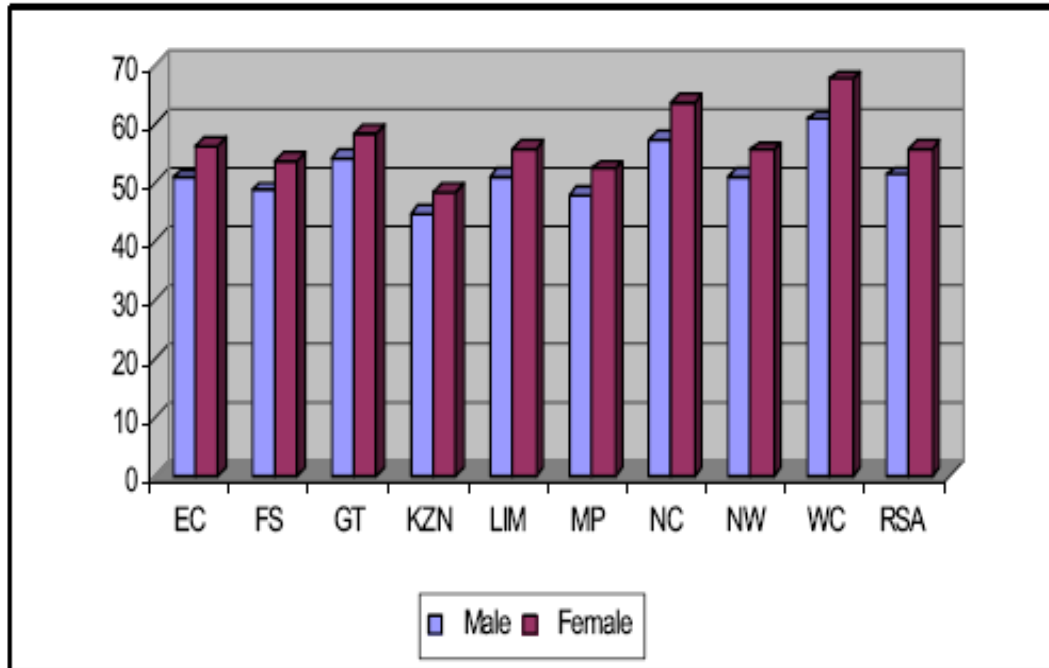


Figure 3.3: Provincial expectation of life at birth, 2001-2006 (*Statistics South Africa 2007:5*).

The above figure shows the average provincial life expectancies at birth for males and females for the period 2001-2006. Life expectancy at birth for females is the highest in Western Cape (67 years) and lowest in Kwazulu Natal (less than 50 years). For Gauteng, life expectancy at birth is estimated at 54 years for males and 57 years for females. For both sexes, life expectancy is estimated at 50, 7 years (49, 0 years for males and 52, 5 years for females) (*Statistics South Africa 2006:5*).

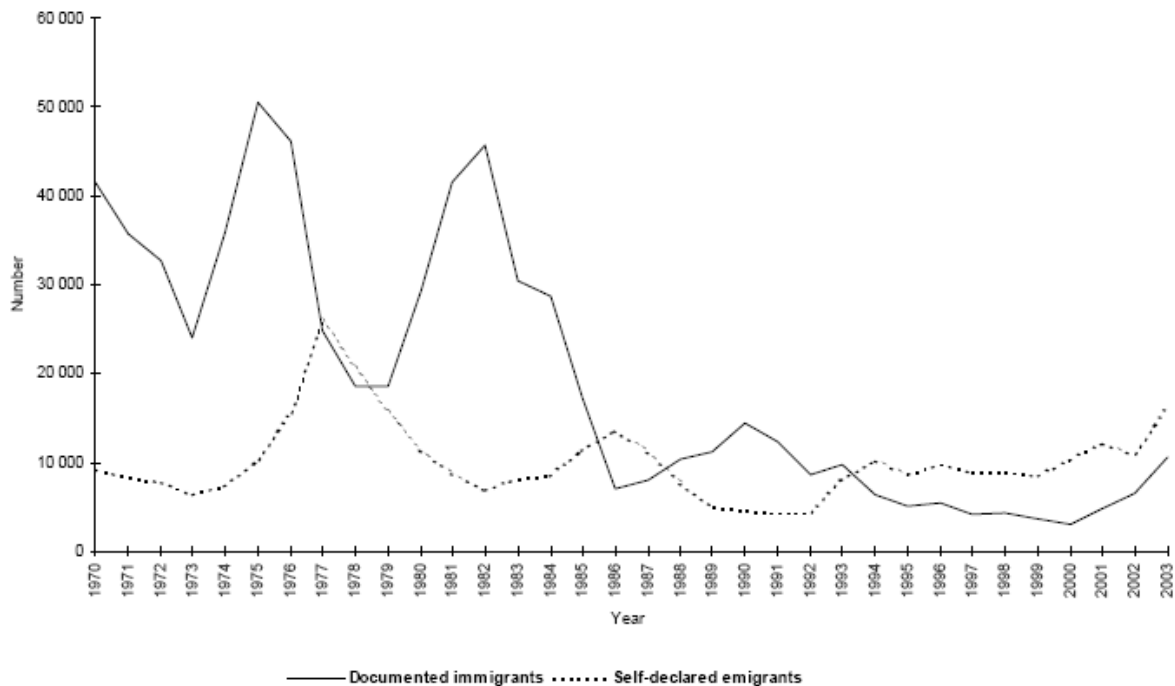
3.3.3 Immigration

3.3.3.1 Definition

What is immigration? Many people can define it in different ways, but the researcher defines it as the process whereby people leave their country of birth and go to settle in another country, either for political stability, or financial or career advancement, etc.

According to Roger S. Greenway, there are more people migrating from one country to another than we have ever seen before. People from the Southern hemisphere are moving North, and people from the East are moving West. People from the Middle East are everywhere. In most cases immigrants settle in urban areas. This turns cities into international communities with people of many different races, cultures, religions, and languages (Greenway 1999:4). According to Meiring (1994:590), Johannesburg attracted people from all over the world like Indian, Chinese, Portuguese, Greek, Jew, Pole and Czechoslovakian; all have made Johannesburg their home. Sunnyside in Pretoria and also in the city centre of Pretoria, there are many people from African countries like Nigeria, Democratic Republic of Congo (Zaire), Zimbabwe, Mozambique, etc.

Figure 3.4: Documented immigrants and self declared emigrants 1970-2003 (*Statistics South Africa 2005:xiv*)





The Statistics South Africa (2005:iv) indicated the following historical trend in documented immigration to South Africa:

There have been wide fluctuations in the trends of *documented immigration*²² to SA. Figure 3.4 shows that there were two prominent peaks. One peak occurred in 1975 and the other in 1982. The 1975 peak was largely due to the doubling in the number of immigrants from the UK between 1973 and 1975 and to some extent, immigration into SA from Mozambique after the country gained independence in that year. The 1982 peak was largely due to immigration to SA from the UK, China and Portugal. From 1990 onwards there was a downward trend in the number of documented immigrants to SA until 2001 when the trend started picking up. In 2003 the number of documented immigrants to SA was 10 578, an increase of 61, 6% as compared to the 2002 figure of 6 545.

²² **Documented immigrants** refer to residents of other countries who have been accepted as permanent residents in South Africa. The permanent residence status could be given either before or after arrival in South Africa (*Statistics South Africa* 2005: xiv).

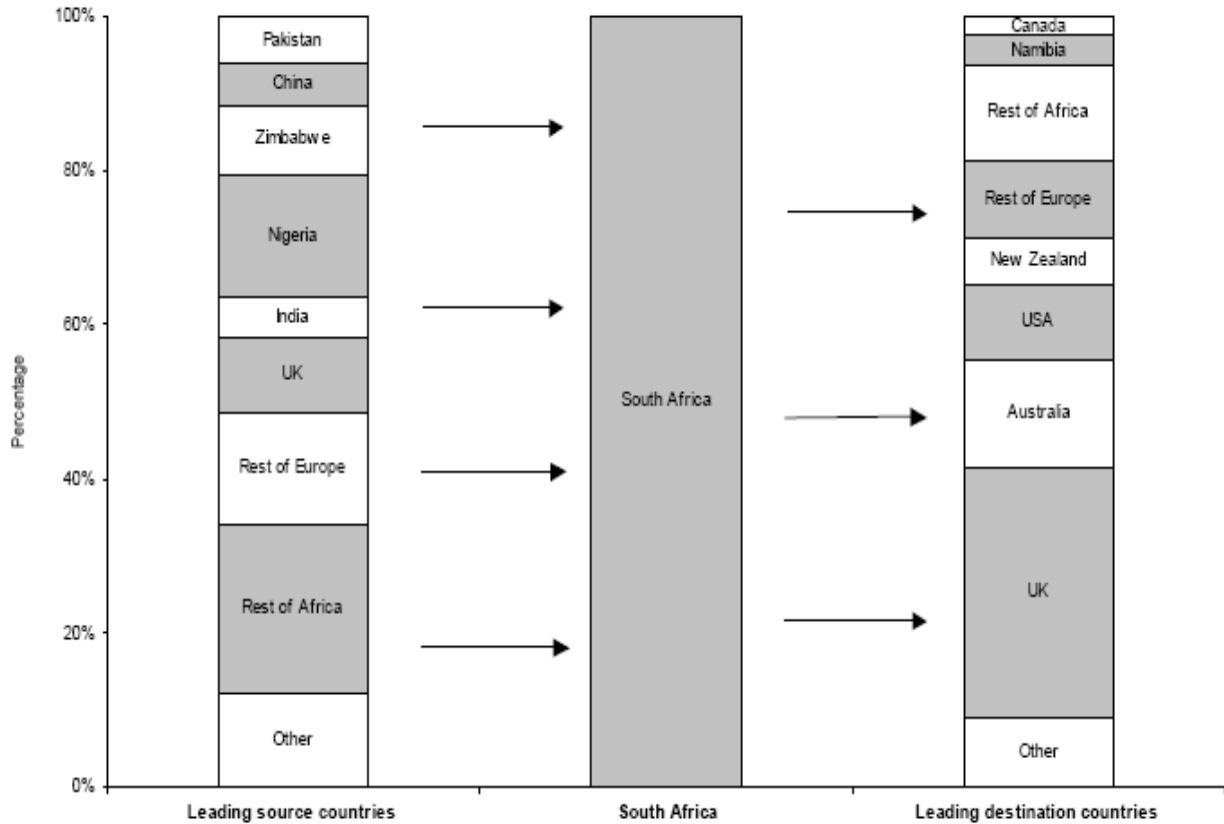


Figure 3.5: Leading countries of documented immigration to South Africa and leading countries of self-declared emigration from South Africa, 2003 (Taken from *Statistics South Africa 2005:vii*).

Figure 3.5 shows the distribution of the leading source countries (of previous permanent residence) of documented immigrants and leading destination countries of self-declared emigrants. During 2003 Nigeria was the leading source country of documented immigrants and the UK the leading destination country of self-declared emigrants. A total of 1 698 documented immigrants (16, 1%) from Nigeria came to settle in SA and a total of 5 204 self-declared emigrants (32, 2%) went to settle in the UK. Other leading source countries of documented immigrants were: the UK, 1 032 (9, 8%); Zimbabwe, 959 (9, 1%); Pakistan, 645 (6, 1%); China, 561 (5, 3%); India, 551 (5, 2%) and Germany, 365 (3, 5%). Other leading destination countries of self-declared emigrants were: Australia, 2 276 (14, 1%); the USA, 1 598 (9, 9%); New Zealand, 966 (6, 0%); Namibia, 617 (3, 8%) and Canada, 400 (2, 5%). According to Johnstone et al (2001:576), nearly one million of

the population in South Africa is not born in South Africa. Estimates for illegal immigrants from other African countries range from 4 million to 12 million.

3.3.3.2 Causes of immigration

There are different causes that led and still lead immigrants to leave their country of birth and settle in South Africa. Hiebert and Meneses (1995:284-285) indicate that immigrants from other parts of the world face other adjustments. Many of them are refugees, driven off their lands by war and violence (for example, the war and violence in Zimbabwe forced many Zimbabweans to immigrate in great numbers to South Africa and also to other countries). Others are attracted by the opportunities in the more affluent cities of the world. According to *Statistics South Africa* (April 2006:2), there were 5 280 (3, 2%) overseas immigrants and 9 095 (1, 6%) mainland Africa immigrants who arrived in South Africa were on business, 4 674 (2, 8%) overseas immigrants and 3 098 (0, 6%) mainland African immigrants for the purpose of work (including contract work), 1 276 (0, 8%) overseas immigrants and 11 491 (2, 1%) mainland African immigrants were for the purpose of study, 1 036 (0, 6%) overseas immigrants and 5 707 (1, 0%) mainland African immigrants were on transit, and 256 (0, 2%) overseas immigrants and 10 943 (2, 0%) mainland African immigrants were those with border traffic concession.

3.3.3.3 The problems that are encountered by the immigrants in South Africa

3.3.3.3.1 Xenophobia

The biggest problem immigrants are encountering is xenophobia. What is xenophobia? Xenophobia can be defined as a dislike (fear) of foreigners. Many South African citizens show a strong fear of foreigners because of the following reasons:



➤ They complain that the immigrants have good jobs while the owners of the country remain jobless. And South African citizens further believe that the immigrants will accumulate the wealth from South Africa and enrich their own countries of birth. The immigrants are treated badly, and some names are attached to them, for example, they are called *makwerekwere* which means “outsiders” or “strangers”. For example, there have been many incidents towards foreigners that have occurred in many places in South Africa this year (2008). But here the researcher will mention only attacks that have occurred in three places. The first incidents occurred in Mamelodi and Attredgeville early this year (2008) (*Pretoria News*, 13 May 2008:2). During those attacks, many foreigners lost their homes and belongings (see Appendix C1). The other horrible xenophobic attack occurred at Alexandra during May and June this year (2008). The violent attacks started after a meeting of about 200 Alexandra residents who decided to give foreigners an ultimatum: “get out or be driven out”. Armed with iron bars, stones, sjamboks, knobkerries and guns, the Alexandra residents then hunted down foreigners. After the attacks, more than 60 foreigners were killed and others were injured (see Appendix C 2 and 3). This takes away both their freedom and the happiness they are supposed to have in their lives. They always live with great fear of being killed or imprisoned.

➤ The other reason is that the immigrants are often seen as the people who are committing crimes in South Africa. The deputy Minister of Home Affairs, Mr Malusi Gigaba indicated that:

The recent spate of crimes, allegedly committed by foreign nationals in South Africa, has prompted some people to blame crime in general on immigrants. Some have even called on home affairs minister to tighten the borders and be tough on illegal immigrants. Without substance,



almost all crime in South Africa is attributed to immigrants, regardless of the fact that a visit to our correctional centres proves this to be false. In any event, whenever crime is committed by foreign nationals, they are in cahoots with South Africans. It seems that foreign criminals have exposed dangerous levels of xenophobia among many South Africans. Actually, most foreigners in our country are themselves irked by the criminals among them because they expose them to violence, discrimination, intolerance and xenophobia.

The fact that there are many South Africans imprisoned in other African countries, South East Asia and America for drug-related and other crimes does not mean that South Africans living in those countries are perforce criminals. It would be unfair if the rest of us were judged abroad by the actions of a coterie of criminals who happen to share our nationality. The fact is we should treat criminals the same, be they South African or not. Crime is not worse when committed by somebody you regard as a foreigner and better when committed by a local. These are human rights issues. We must be tolerant and accommodating of immigrants, and they must respect our laws. We must be intolerant of crime, whether committed by locals or foreigners. Like racism, xenophobia is a pernicious crime against humanity (*Sowetan*, 26 July 2006:11).

3.3.3.3.2 Unsettlement

When people make a major move, such as rural to urban migration or immigration to another country, they tend to be unsettled. They face new values, new ways of doing things, possibly a new language. At the same time they have left behind a large portion

of their former support system. Families and friends are separated, possibly for the first time in their lives. As Donald A. McGavran says, “Immigrants and migrants have been so pounded by circumstances that they are receptive to all sorts of innovations, among which is the Gospel. They are in a phase of insecurity, capable of reaching out for what will stabilize them and raise their spirits (McGavran 1970:219).

According to Greenway (1999:4), there are more refugees throughout the world than ever before. Refugees are the victims of war, political struggle, natural disasters, or drought. They are forced to leave their traditional places of living and to search new homes. When they are living as refugees, they often show interest in the Christian faith for the first time.

3.4 PROBLEMS IN URBAN AREAS

3.4.1 Poverty²³

The impact of growth in the city is immense. Where they exists, national and city development programs, already stretched by limited budgets, are swamped by the new arrivals – jobs, housing, health, basic human services. Poverty has become the dominant social problem for the host city. One day’s solution becomes the next day’s problem (Conn & Oritz 2001:212). Some of the worst suffering is found among people that have recently arrived in cities (Greenway 1999:116). Some of the people who

²³ Poverty has many faces, some less obvious than others. Poverty can have the face of an unwanted baby, an abuses child, a runaway youth, a rejected spouse, a lonely old man, or an Aids patient. Poverty can be physical, emotional, or spiritual. To be impoverished means to lack love and the essentials of life: food, clothing, shelter, health, support, identity, and purpose. The economically poor and the spiritually impoverished have the same basic need – to know that their welfare is God’s concern (Christensen 1988:36-37).

arrive in the cities, who failed to get accommodations in the cities, decide to live in squatter camps, under the bridges, etc. Poverty is universal in squatter camps. It is hard to convey the depths of this poverty. “Rising expectations have produced rising frustrations. Statusless, marginalized, hungry and rootless, the poor are formed into what Oscar Lewis calls a new culture. And all this is in cities; where so few of us venture in mission” (Conn 1984:3). In some instances it is devastating. “Shacks of corrugated iron, wooden planks, hardboard and even plastics have mushroomed wherever people have been able to find vacant land” (*Southern Africa Report* June 7 1991:3). They live in overcrowded tin shanties, cardboard boxes, old rusty motor cars, structures of branches and plastic, in back yards, in cramped servants’ quarters, on garbage dumps, wherever there is vacant land. It does not matter to them whether it is legal or illegal – they need land (Woodgate 1992:13). Adding to their misery, the poverty was often made worse by government policy: “Conditions in the squatter settlements have often been exacerbated by official lethargy or neglect as well as by certain political policies followed in the name of implementing a segregationist system (later named apartheid)” (Minnaar 1992:3).

The sad fact is that the number of poor people is increasing daily. The challenge to missions is to show Christian compassion in ways that will help the poor escape from poverty, while at the same time telling them about Jesus Christ (Greenway 1999:8). For example, if one goes around streets and roads within cities you can find people with cardboard written requests of money, food or clothes. Poverty reaches beyond racial lines. White beggars join their Black counterparts on the corners of the streets. In Pretoria in 2007, the researcher approached a well known park called Magnolia, on the corner of Walker Street and University Road, where he saw a white man at the robot aged between 45-52 years with a hardboard in his hand. There was a written message on his hardboard. The message was as follows: “*Please help with food, money, or*

anything. I am starving. Thanks.” The researcher was very touched by the message written on that cardboard, and then he went straight to him, and asks him the following questions: What is your name? Why are you doing this? The man answered, “*I am Willem*”. “*It is my everyday job to stay here and ask for money, food, clothes or anything that can help me to support my wife and our four children*”. Really this was very painful. The researcher tried to imagine the situation Willem always faces in his house, and he felt that it is devastating. This type of situation is one of the situations which can be encountered all over the streets in big cities. The researcher does agree with Roger S. Greenway who says:

Life for the poor is hard in cities. They are the victims of crime and injustice. Nevertheless, large numbers of new people continue to arrive from the villages. They are drawn to the cities as though by invisible magnets. They have great hopes and dreams for the future despite the poverty and suffering they experience now. They firmly believe that if not the parents, certainly the children will enjoy better lives in the city (Greenway 1999:116-117).

3.4.2 Prostitution

According to Hiebert and Meneses (1995:300), around the world, travel and tourism have created subcultures of entertainment that often cater to human vices. Those who are desperately poor for instance may be forced into prostitution to survive. Conn (1987:69) states that “Prostitution is said to grow in those places where the population is dense, the poor are numerous, and money flows freely”. The following statistics were compiled by a fact-finding group, currently working in Hillbrow. Among the 500 000 people living in the area there are 3 000 registered prostitutes together with 37 so called



escort agencies and 9 gay clubs (Meiring 1994:591). Willem Saayman and Jacques Kriel indicate that:

However, it must be clear from our analysis that sexual behavioural patterns in any community are determined by many factors – socio-economic, political, cultural and religious. In many if not most situations in the developing world these patterns are responses to situations of economic devastation, political maneuvering, and other forces which the individual hardly understands, let alone controls. In South Africa, for example, the social devastation caused by migrant labour and the apartheid laws, which prevented families from settling as families near their places of work, has been the major cause of the sexual behavioural patterns which form the basis of the epidemic among Black South Africans. In such situations the church simply has to address the underlying social and economic concerns and injustices and cannot confine its attention to behavioural (educational and moral) issues or even to pastoral care of Aids sufferers (1992:24).

Prostitution is promoted in many ways and it is regarded as a business where people are earning money for their survival through this wrong practice. People are not ashamed to voice out to promote it. It is advertised in news papers, internet, and television in fact almost everywhere. Three examples, taken from South African newspapers illustrate the issues (see Appendix D):

➤ ***First story: Sex gizmos displayed***

Sex toys, dancers and half-naked women filled the Durban International Convention Centre this week for an exhibition of a different kind, the



Sexpo. The Sexpo, which closes tonight, features all forms of sexual toys, big and small, manual or fully automated, lingerie and even workshops on how to use sex toys and guidance on things like anal sex. It would not be a Sexpo without dancers, and the main attraction is none other than Miss Nude Australia, Arianna Starr, and Pricasso, the talented painter who uses his penis to paint portraits. Starr says she is happy with her career. "I enjoy interacting with different clients and I love performing" she says (*Sunday Sun*, 10 February 2008:16).

➤ ***Second story: North West "Paid to train prostitutes"***

The North West department of health was embroiled in a row following allegations that its money was used to run a workshop at which three young women were taught how to be prostitutes. A nurse has been accused by the women of luring them to a workshop under the pretext that they were going to be trained as peer educators. Instead they were taught how to be prostitutes by a sex worker who ran the workshop conducted at Protea Lodge on 23 November 2007 and have been paid by the provincial Department of Health. One of the three young women who lives with her grandparents since her mother died a few years ago indicated that they believed the nurse because they knew her well. She further indicated that she thought her troubles were over when the nurse came to her and said she will be earning R500 a month as a peer educator. The three young women said that they were convinced the job offer was genuine when they were booked into the posh lodge at Mafikeng. But their happiness was short-lived when fellow recruits told them that the workshop was about how to please potential clients. One of those three lured young women indicated that they were taught how to deal with the clients who did not want to pay for services and also how to approach truck drivers. They indicated that the same night, other girls asked the three to accompany them to

'*mochofong*' (to go out and look for potential clients). The three young women were afraid and ran to the nearest police station in Mafikeng to ask for assistance. And they were assisted by the police (*Sowetan*, 4 February 2008:4) (see Appendix D 1).

☞ ***Third story: Half naked prostitutes work from toilets!***

A group of prostitutes were removed from public toilets on Monday 18th February 2008 at Hoedspruit. This happened after a security guard complained when he found five aggressive prostitutes prancing around in bikinis and G-string underwear. Michael Mabotsa, who works for a private security company in Hoedspruit, Limpopo, was waiting for a bus just after 17H00 (5 PM) when he got the call from nature. When he entered the public toilets, he found blankets, sponges and towels on the floor and then he saw the half-naked woman! When he tried to use the urinal, the women tried to seduce him, making all sorts of sexual offers. One of the women, who were also smoking, asked him if he wanted it wrapped or not. "Wrapped" is street slang for using condoms. He said the women offered him two minutes of sex for R50. Eventually, a hawker came to his rescue. It turns out that it is common knowledge that prostitutes operate from the public toilets, serving truck drivers, soldiers and the occasional tourist (*Sun*, 19 February 2008:3) (see Appendix D 2).

3.4.3 Crime

The crime rate in cities is alarmingly high (Verster 2000:6, 10). For example, crime in Hillbrow is growing tremendously. An average of 190 suicide attempts is reported monthly; an average of 37 people actually succeeds in taking their own lives. 1 200 incidents of rape occur monthly, one murder is reported everyday (Meiring 1994:591). According to Johnstone et al (2001:578), the escalating crime wave in South Africa has

shocked the nation (2000,000 murders in the 1990s), limited foreign investment and restrained the flow of tourists. The major growth industry is security violent robberies, car-hijacking and rape are commonplace. The country has a murder rate over seven times that of the USA and few crimes end up with convictions.

Roberts (1981:141) discusses the reasons for urban crime. There are different theories. According to him *one early theory* was that criminal behaviour results from social and individual disorganization and disintegration in the city following the weakening of social controls and restraints due to social breakdown. The remedy in this case would be to strengthen social order. *The second theory* is that criminal behaviour is a rational response to people's circumstances of need and want. According to J. Andrew Kirk, among other effects, urban poverty increases certain forms of crime, the break-up of the family support network, the abandonment of children to the streets and an alternative economy (including a vigorous trade in drugs) (Kirk 1999:99). The problem is, however, that not all crime can be seen as resulting from poverty and want. Monsma (1979:25) says, "Unemployment encourages crime, but it is well known that crime also occurs where employment is high, for there are always those who wish to get money quickly without working for it". According to Roberts (1981:142), *the third theory* is the opposite of the first. Crime is seen as the product of social cohesion and not of breakdown. The community with its markets and systems supports crime. The social cohesion in this negative and destructive sense leads to the destruction of society. Roberts is of the opinion that the cure is spiritual: "The remedy lies in strengthening the religious values. Only a change of heart can bring down urban crime. The saving power of the Gospel that changed the life of the malefactor on the cross is the ultimate answer for modern criminals" (1981:43). The government sometimes encourages crime in its decisions or laws. For example, it legalized abortion. The parliament on Thursday the 07th of February 2008 approved legal changes to make abortions easier to obtain, despite

criticism from opponents who said the law was already too lax. The changes will provide for 24 hour abortion facilities, do away with pre-approval procedures and permit all nurses, instead of just midwives to terminate pregnancies. Women as young as 12 can get an abortion during the first 12 weeks of pregnancy and in some cases up to 20 weeks without their parents' knowledge (*Sunday Sun*, 10 February 2008:37) (see Appendix E 1). This is a terrible law which promotes termination of pregnancies which is biblically wrong because it is murder. According to the national crime statistics released in Pretoria on the 30th June 2008, 50 people are murdered everyday in SA. An average 30 children are murdered in South Africa every week. The figure of children murdered this year (2008) increased to 1 410 as compared to 1 152 figure of 2006/07 financial year. Another area of great concern is the significant rise in house and business robberies, and truck and car hijacking. House robberies increased by 13, 5 percent, business robberies increased by 47, 4 percent, car hijacking increased by 4, 4 percent while truck hijacking increased by 39, 6 percent from the 2007/08 financial year. Safety and Security Minister, Charles Nqakula said the statistics were a serious cause for concern (*Sowetan*, 1 July 2008:4; cf *Daily Sun*, 1 July 2008:5) (See Appendix E 2).

3.4.4 Street people

Who are street people? The researcher defines "Street people" as a broad term that covers a heterogeneous population with one thing in common: its members are homeless. "Many of the poorest of the poor have no home at all" (Hiebert and Meneses 1995:299). A wide range of individuals is included: runaway boys and girls, displaced families, legal and illegal refugees, prostitutes, alcoholics and drug addicts, the aged and senile, and the mentally retarded. Changes in the nation's economy have forced a great number of people out of jobs and onto the streets.

Substance abuse is one of the major causes of homelessness. It is estimated that alcoholics and drug abusers represent up to 45 percent of the homeless population in this country (South Africa). Because of their addiction, these people cannot get or hold a job, they cannot pay for decent housing, and they are not mentally alert enough to make adequate use of available community services (Greenway 1989c:184-185). Street children often form gangs for mutual support and side-walk dwellers aid one another when they can, but there is little formal organization among them that would enable them to mobilize political pressure on the government or society or to form cooperatives to keep their costs down (Hiebert and Meneses 1995:299).

3.4.5 Unemployment

According to Pieter Verster, increasing urbanization leads to unemployment. Many flocked to the city only to find themselves without a job. Opportunities for jobs in the cities exist but are inadequate (1994:6). “Unemployment of the residents aggravates the financial plight of local authorities because people establishing themselves in cities expect essential services, but do not have the means to pay for them” (Hillard (1992:173). Timothy Monsma indicates that unemployment is another serious urban problem. Many of those people who come to the city seeking work don’t find it or don’t find it for a long time. The unemployed people often live with their relatives in the cities. Thus the income of one worker may be used to sustain several other potential workers. This tends to depress the urban standard of living. Some of those who don’t find work give up and go home, while others turn to crime or prostitution (Monsma 1979:24). According to Monsma (1979:30), the unemployed falls under the lower class together with the day labourers, petty traders, prostitutes and those who gain their livelihood by illegal activities (such as stealing, smuggling, or swindling).

3.4.6 HIV/Aids

According to Johnstone et al (2001:578), Aids has become the primary cause of death in South Africa. Daily 1,200 victims are buried. There were 420,000 Aids orphans in 2000. Over 20% of the adult population and a third of all teachers are infected. According to the Minister of Correctional Services, Ngconde Balfour, at least 13 000 inmates in South Africa's overcrowded jails are known to be HIV positive. In a written reply to a parliamentary question, tabled on the 26 March 2007, he said 628 of them were receiving antiretroviral treatment. "As at December 31, 2006, the total number of known HIV positive offenders was 13,729, of whom 13 275 were sentenced males, and 444 sentenced females". He said five prisons had been accredited as "comprehensive treatment, care and support centres", and provided antiretroviral treatment. Inmates of other prisons who needed antiretroviral treatment were taken to the nearest accredited public health facility. "As at 31 December 2006, a total number of 628 prisoners were placed on the antiretroviral treatment program" Balfour said. Prison overcrowding is in the region of 137, 6% (*Daily Sun*, 27 March 2007:4). According to Johnstones et al, Aids is silently destroying swathes of society. Only Christians have meaningful message of eternal hope and the moral foundation to prevent its spread (2001:579).

3.5 CONCLUSION

It was clearly indicated in this chapter that urbanization is the process which is occurring worldwide and also in South African cities rapidly. South African cities are recipients of immigrants from European countries and also from African countries. Not only European immigrants and immigrants from other African countries occupy SA cities, but also a great number of South African citizens from villages migrated to SA cities. All were forced to move to SA cities by push and pull factors. Some are pushed

to urban areas because of rural population growth, rural disasters, escalating unemployment, etc. Those who are pulled to SA cities are pulled by economic reasons, industrialization, better education, better health care; cities are centers of service and dominance, etc. The other cause of urban growth is natural birth. According to *Statistics South Africa* (2006:5), there are many children who are born in SA cities. The urban church must see this as the great opportunity for them to plant many churches in SA cities.

It was quiet clear in this chapter that the more people move to SA cities in great numbers, the more problems occur in urban areas. Olley (1990:21) emphasizes that the church must not be discouraged by life in the earthly city: “We live in the cities of the world, but our scattered communities are to bear witness to a different set of values, a life of hope”. This chapter indicated many problems in SA cities, but the most common problems occurring time and again in SA cities are poverty, prostitution, crime, street people, unemployment, and HIV/Aids. What does this mean to the church? This means that the urban church must develop a comprehensive definition of mission in an urban setting. The development of comprehensive definition of mission in an urban setting is clearly discussed in the following chapter, chapter 4.